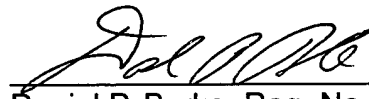


**REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 3-8 have been amended so as to remove the multiple dependency and avoid the surcharge associated therewith. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/30/03



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